

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 04736 231530Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CA-01 L-03 HA-05 H-01 PPT-01
/030 W

-----029678 240602Z /23

R 231136Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7018

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: CASC, YO (ALIMI, AMZA TONY)
SUBJ: MILITARY SERVICE DUAL NATIONAL AMZA TONY ALIMI

REF: BELGRADE 4493 AND PREVIOUS

1. AT OUR INVITATION, MR. ALIMI FINALLY VISITED THE EMBASSY
ON JUNE 21 TO RECLAIM HIS US PASSPORT AND TO DISCUSS HIS
IMMEDIATE PLANS.

2. DESPITE THE RECENT PREDICAMENT HE FOUND HIMSELF IN DUE TO
HIS DUAL NATIONAL STATUS, OR PERHAPS BECAUSE OF ITS FAVORABLE
RESOLUTION, MR. ALIMI HAS NO ANXIETY ABOUT PROLONGING HIS STAY
IN YUGOSLAVIA FOR ANOTHER ONE TO TWO MONTHS.

3. HE BROUGHT NO YUGOSLAV DOCUMENTS WITH HIM TO THE EMBASSY
AND SAID THAT HE WAS TOLD NOTHING ABOUT HOW LONG HE MAY REMAIN
HERE. HE REMARKED THAT HIS ARMY BOOKLET WAS STAMPED TO SHOW
THAT HE HAD BEEN RELAESED FROM MILITARY SERVICE ON THE BASIS
OF A YUGOSLAV-US AGREEMENT.

4. A CONOFF STRESSED THAT THERE IS NO REPEAT NO AGREEMENT
WITH YUGOSLAVIA ABOUT DUAL NATIONALS WHETHER IN CONNECTION
WITH MILITARY SERVICE OR ANYTHING ELSE, AND THAT THE
ABSENCE OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT WAS AT THE ROOT OF HIS PROBLEM.

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5. CONOFF WENT ON TO EMPHASIZE THAT MR. ALIMI'S
RELEASE FROM MILITARY SERVICE WAS THE DIRECT RESULT OF
PERSISTENT EFFORTS BY THE AMBASSADOR AND THAT TO THE
EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE, THERE HAD BEEN NO COMPARABLE
RESOLUTION OF SIMILAR CASES IN THE PAST. MR. ALIMI
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD FRIENDS WHO HAD HAD TO SERVE THE

ENTIRE 15 MONTHS AND MENTIONED ONE IN PARTICULAR WHO IS
NOW BACK IN THE UNITED STATES.

6. DURING A GENERAL REVIEW BY THE CONOFF OF THE PITFALLS
AND POTENTIAL PROBLEMS WHICH ACCOMPANY WHAT SOME CITIZENS
PERCEIVE AS ADVANTAGES TO DUAL NATIONAL STATUS, MR. ALIMI
REMARKED THAT HE PERSONALLY WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO
RENOUNCE HIS YUGOSLAV CITIZENSHIP BECAUSE HE HAS A "MOTHER
AND SO FORTH" HERE.

7. CONOFF STRESSED THAT WHILE THE EMBASSY MAKES VIGOROUS
EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF ALL US CITIZENS IN DIFFICULTY,
DUAL NATIONALITY IS A PARTICULARLY THORNY ISSUE IN
YUGOSLAVIA AND MR. ALIMI SHOULD HARBOR NO ILLUSIONS THAT
THE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF HIS CASE WAS EITHER ROUTINE OR
THAT SIMILARLY SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION OF POSSIBLE FUTURE
CONFLICTS CAN BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED.
EAGLEBURGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BELGRA04736
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780263-0570
Format: TEL
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780627/aaaaaxls.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a1061b83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SCS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BELGRADE 4493
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2233722
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITARY SERVICE DUAL NATIONAL AMZA TONY ALIM
TAGS: CASC, YO, (ALIMI, AMZA TONY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a1061b83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014